CLAIMS

1. A System for setting up communications between users of a telecommunication network (1, 10), each user being provided with a terminal
5   providing access to the telecommunication network,

characterized in that it comprises a central server (2) designed to provide a service for setting up a communication, this server comprising:

means (4) for memorizing for each user a user identifier for the communication set up service, associated with information necessary to set up
10   a communication with the user's terminal and profile information based on which the user would like to use his terminal to get into anonymous communication with other service users;

means for receiving profile information sent by users, and storing it in the memory means (4);

15   means for distributing the received profile information on user terminals (5, 8), and

means for receiving requests from user terminals for setting up a communication based on user profile information, and means for setting up a communication between two user terminals following reception of a
20   communication set up request,

each user terminal comprising means for receiving and displaying user profile information sent by the central server, means for selecting the profile information of a user, and means for transmitting to the central server a request to set up a communication with the user corresponding to the selected
25   profile information.

2. The system according to claim 1, characterized in that user terminals (5) are fixed or mobile terminals.

30   3. The system according to either claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the central server (2) comprises means for extracting from the memory means (4) a list of user profiles corresponding to a selection criterion sent by a user terminal, and means for transmitting the extracted list to the user terminal.

35   4. The system according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the central server (2) comprises means for determining the geographic position

of users registered in the communication set up service, means for inserting in the memory means (4) the geographic position of each user in association with profile information, and means for extracting from the memory means (4) a list of user identifiers located close to a determined user, using memorized geographic positions.

5. The system according to claim 4, characterized in that at least some of the terminals (5, 8) of users of the communication set up service are of the mobile terminal type including low range communication means for communicating directly with other nearby user terminals without needing a telecommunication network, the central server comprising means for transmitting to a mobile terminal information necessary for setting up a direct communication with the terminal located nearby, following reception of a request sent by the terminal to set up a communication with the nearby terminal.

6. The system according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the central server (2) uses a WAP and / or Web service.

7. The system according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the user profile information contains exchange proposals, each exchange proposal including types and quantities of exchangeable data offered and requested in exchange, the central server also comprising means for receiving exchange validation messages sent by terminals of users who accepted an exchange proposal sent by a user, and means for retransmitting each received validation message to the terminal of the user who sent the corresponding exchange proposal, and means for updating exchangeable user data accounts whenever a proposal for an exchange is accepted, as a function of types and quantities of data to be exchanged specified by the accepted exchange proposal.

8. The system according to claim 7, characterized in that each user terminal (5, 8) in the exchange service includes means for transmitting a message to the central server (2) to request the quantity of data appearing on each account available to the user, and means for receiving and displaying the data type and quantity information received in response from the central

server.

9. The system according to either claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the central server (2) comprises means for canceling an exchange transaction validated when the exchanged data are not present on the corresponding accounts of users participating in the transaction.

10. A terminal (5, 8) used to equip users of a communication set up service, characterized in that it comprises:

connection means for connecting the terminal to a central server (2) through a telecommunication network (1, 10),

means for inputting and sending to the central server profile information including a user identifier,

means for receiving from the central server lists of profile information sent by other users of the communication set up service, and displaying these lists on the terminal, and means for selecting a displayed user profile, and

means for sending a request to set up a communication with the user corresponding to the user profile displayed by the terminal and selected using selection means.

11. The terminal according to claim 10, characterized in that it is of the fixed (8) or mobile (5) terminal type.

12. The terminal according to either claim 10 or 11, characterized in that it is of the mobile terminal type and includes low range communication means for communicating directly with other nearby user terminals, and means for receiving information necessary to set up a direct communication with the nearby terminal, when requested.

13. The terminal according to one of claims 10 to 12, characterized in that it also comprises:

means for inputting an exchange proposal including an identifier of the user who sent the exchange proposal, a type and a quantity of exchangeable data offered, and a type of data requested in exchange, and sending this proposal to the central server,

means for receiving lists of exchange proposals sent by the other users

of the exchange service, the lists being transmitted through the central server, and means for selecting a displayed exchange proposal, and displaying these lists on the terminal, and

means for sending a validation order for an exchange proposal displayed by the terminal and selected using the validation means.

14. The terminal according to one of claims 10 to 13, characterized in that it includes means for displaying a download window in which icons are displayed symbolizing exchanged data, to give the user the impression of physically exchanging data.